



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council

Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – White Mountain Apache Tribe Regional Partnership Council was held on October 19, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Whiteriver Unified School District ABC Day Care Classroom, 422 S. 2nd Ave., Whiteriver, AZ 85941.

Chair Massey Jr., called the meeting to order at approximately 2:27 p.m.

Members Present:

Deborah Clendon, Laurel Endfield, Velma Kaytoggy, Mary Kline, Kirk Massey, Jr., Dr. Tim Strand, and Shine Burnette (3:03 p.m.)

Members Absent: Dennie Cromwell, Harrisen DeClay, and Faye Smith

Other Attendees: Kate Dobler-Allen, Joe Dorsey, Mona Lisa Eleando, Claude Endfield, Julie Fitzgerald, Ranelda Hastings, AdiShakti Khalsa, Kathy Lacapa, Rochelle Lacapa, and Maureen Theobald

Discussion and Possible Adoption of the September 23, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Chair Massey, Jr., reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 23, 2009. Member Kline moved to accept the minutes of the September 23, 2009 Regular Meeting as presented. Member Clendon seconded the motion; the motion passed 6:0:0.

Call to the Public

None

Discussion and Possible Approval of Inclusion of the New Attendance Policy into the Regional Governance Policy

Coordinator Lacapa reviewed the attendance policy, which was approved by the FTF Board and became binding on September 1, 2009. Coordinator Lacapa stated the intention of this policy is to keep the work going forward and not to be punitive. Coordinator Lacapa further stated that the issue today is whether the members wish to adopt this policy into the Regional Governance Policy. Member Kline expressed concern for the stringent guidelines for absence and noted her job would have to come first. Coordinator Lacapa reminded Member Kline there is room for emergencies in the policy. Member Kline moved that the Regional Partnership Council approve the new attendance policy as part of the Regional Governance Policy. Vice Chair Endfield seconded the motion; the motion passed 6:0:0.

FY2010 Program Updates

A. Mrs. Ranelda Hastings, Support Box Project – Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health – Mrs. Hastings shared a handout with the attendees and stated they are still in the planning phase; however, they hope to distribute applications this week and begin distributing of the first support boxes in two weeks. Mrs. Hastings stated they have done public notices in *The Apache Scout* and have created FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) noting who is eligible, which items are included in the box, where to apply, etc. Mrs. Hastings has been meeting with various organizations to discuss this project. Recipients will be able to receive a support box once per month; and every three months, their furlough status will be reviewed. Mrs. Hastings noted they are asking recipients to do two hours of community service

for each support box they receive; this is on the honor system. Member Strand recommended Mrs. Hastings add "birth through age five" to her newspaper article. Vice Chair Endfield expressed concern about the number of distribution sites; Mrs. Hastings responded there are three sites. Mrs. Hastings stated they currently have supplies to create 30 support boxes.

B. Kirk Massey, Jr., Fathers' Project – Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health – Mr. Massey, Jr., reviewed his handout and discussed the goals and participants of the project. Mr. Massey, Jr., stated there will be three phases of this project:

1. Phase 1 – This will be the Community Planning Phase, where there will be interviews, both individual and group, in order to gather information to develop an intervention for White Mountain Apache fathers.
2. Phase 2 – Based on information gathered in Phase 1, the new intervention will be piloted with 50 White Mountain Apache fathers.
3. Phase 3 – The pilot intervention will be evaluated and a report will be written on the results.

Coordinator Lacapa noted Mr. Massey, Jr., was hired to oversee this project and he will recuse himself when a conflict of interest arises.

C. Mrs. Claude Endfield, Apache Families First Project, Northland Pioneer College – Mrs. Endfield reviewed her handout, discussed successes and challenges, and introduced Ms. Mona Lisa Eleando, who is the new Project Coordinator.

Chair Massey, Jr., moved to Agenda Item 7 since it had been tabled last month.

Coordinator's Report (August and September)

Coordinator Lacapa reviewed her attachments and gave an update of the past two months. Chair Massey, Jr., noted that the Tribal Council Members are happy with the work the Regional Partnership Council is doing.

Discussion and Possible Approval of FY2011 Regional Funding Plan

Coordinator Lacapa reviewed a draft of the FY2011 Funding Plan as well as a draft of the suggested strategy discussed during last month's meeting involving families with children birth through age five with special needs. Coordinator Lacapa noted that the members also wished to continue Child Care Scholarships and then asked the members to review the prioritized needs for this region. After much discussion, the following revised list of priorities was agreed upon by the members:

- A. Increasing hands-on training for parents/guardians of children birth through age five
- B. Increasing language and literacy development among children birth through age five
- C. Increasing supports for parents/guardians of children birth through age five with special needs
- D. Increasing affordability of center-based child care
- E. Reduction of dental disease among children six months through age five
- F. Increasing awareness about early childhood development and health issues as well as increasing U.S. Census participation throughout the region.

Coordinator Lacapa stated there must be justification for reprioritizing this list; Vice Chair Endfield noted the economic conditions have drastically changed since last year. Coordinator Lacapa asked the members to review the two new strategies; Vice Chair Endfield suggested they begin with the strategy for parents/guardians of children with special needs. Issues were raised about "gap" children whose disabilities are under the "50 percent qualifier," which means these children are not eligible for services through DDD or AzEIP (Arizona Early Intervention Program). Based on this, it was determined this strategy should involve parents/guardians of children who have been documented by a qualified professional as developmentally delayed or medically disabled, who do not qualify for DDD or AzEIP. Discussion was held regarding the potential cost of these services; Coordinator Lacapa will re-write the strategy, including home visitation, outline the costs, and prepare the new draft for the members' review.

The Child Care Scholarships strategy was then discussed; it was determined there should be a time limit for this and that there should be mandatory parent training included in the strategy. This would target the same population as the support box strategy. Coordinator Lacapa noted the Yavapai Regional Partnership Council has a similar strategy, so she will review their strategy, revise the two new strategies and schedule a Special Meeting to review them. The Special Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 26, 2009, at 4:00 p.m., and it will be held telephonically.

Items for the Good of the Order

None

Adjourn

Having no further business, Chair Massey, Jr., adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Approved:


Kirk Massey, Jr., Chair


Rochelle Lacapa, Coordinator